

Robert Hall Babcock

DEATH OF BLIND CARDIOLOGIST

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Death of Blind Cardiologist

It is always an inspiration to hear of a man who has risen to the world's high places, in spite of some staggering handicap; and for this reason, if for no other, the career of **Dr. Robert Hall Babcock**, of Chicago, is especially appealing.

Born at Watertown, N. Y., in 1851, he was totally blinded by a Fourth of July explosion at the age of thirteen but, in spite of this catastrophe, which would have crushed a lesser spirit, he became one of the nation's foremost cardiologists.

He studied at Western Reserve College and the University of Michigan, and received his degree in Medicine from Chicago Medical College, in 1878, through the help of his classmates, who read his lessons to him. After his marriage, in 1879, his wife became his "eyes," and after her death his daughter assumed that function.

From 1891 to 1905, Dr. Babcock was professor of diseases of the chest and clinical medicine in the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Chicago; served on the staffs of a number of hospitals and was a member of a long list of professional societies, at home and abroad. He was the author

of several books and many articles in the current literature.

It is of interest to note that Dr. Babcock's attention to diseases of the heart began when he found that he, himself, suffered from such a malady which, at last, when he was seventy-nine years old, terminated his labors on June 26, 1930.

It is encouraging to feel that a damaged heart, *properly cared for*, need not result in the premature death of its possessor.

United States Civil Service Examination

The United States Civil Service Commission announces the following open competitive examination:

Senior Medical Officer (Psychiatry)

Applications must be on file with the Civil Service Commission at Washington, D. C., not later than August 27, 1930.

The examination is to fill a vacancy in the United States Public Health Service for duty at the United States Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas, and vacancies occurring in positions requiring similar qualifications throughout the United States.

Full information may be obtained from the United States Civil Service Commission, Washington, D. C., or the Secretary of the United States Civil Service Board of Examiners at the post office or custom-house in any city.

First Aid Booklet

The Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, 1 Madison Ave., New York City, has recently issued a useful illustrated booklet dealing with first aid in small industrial plants. They will be glad to send it to anyone who is interested, and it is worth asking for.

Studies of Endemic Goiter

The U. S. Public Health Service has been conducting studies on endemic ("simple") goiter, and has recently issued a bulletin setting forth the results. Physicians interested in goiter should write for this valuable contribution.

upon investigation, such charges appear well founded, the offending persons or organizations will be prosecuted, for correspondence instruction is *interstate commerce*.



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Dr. Harvey Wiley Passes

That we now have strong and well-enforced laws governing the purity of foods, and drugs is due, more than to any other man, to Dr. Harvey W. Wiley who, for thirty years, battled indefatigably in the crusade against nostrums and adulterated foods.

Dr. Wiley was born at Kent, Indiana, Oct. 18, 1844, and received his medical degree from the Indiana Medical College, where, later, he taught chemistry. He also taught at Purdue University, and bore many titles, including M.D., Ph.D., D.Sc., and LL.D., from several institutions of learning, and was a Chevalier of the Legion of Honor. He saw service in the Civil War.

From 1883 to 1912, Dr. Wiley was chief of the Bureau of Chemistry, Department of Agriculture, and it was here that he achieved international fame. The later years of his life were spent in lecturing

and in writing books and magazine articles which were read by millions of people.

He was a member of a dozen or more learned societies as well as several clubs, and served as president of the Pharmacopeial Convention 1910 to 1920.

His long and turbulent career came to a close at his home in Washington, D. C., on June 30, 1930, he being in his eighty-sixth year.

Chemical Elements

It is sometimes convenient to have a list of the chemical elements, arranged according to their atomic weights. Such a list has been prepared by P. C. Kullman and Co., 110 Nassau St., N. Y. C., and will be sent, gratis, to those who ask for it.

Physicians' Art Club

The Physicians' Art Club, of New York, recently staged an exhibition at which 241 pieces, the work of 63 physicians, were shown, including paintings, sculpture, photographs, drawings, metal work, etc.

If every city of any size could have an active organization of this sort, the general level of the medical profession would be distinctly raised.

Passing of Dr. Kiefer

On May 8, 1930, Dr. Guy Lincoln Kiefer, Commissioner of Health of Michigan, succumbed rather suddenly to an attack of coronary thrombosis, at the age of 64 years.

Dr. Kiefer has been prominent in the field of public health and in Organized Medicine for a number of years and had held many positions of trust and responsibility. His passing is a serious loss to the profession and to the State.

Anglo-American Physicians in Europe

Any person who is going to Europe, and would be interested to know where he can secure the services of an English or American physician, in case of need, can procure a directory of the Continental Anglo-American Medical Society by writing to Dr. B. Sherwood-Dunn, 54 Blvd. Victor Hugo, Nice, France.

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